

VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 2
OCTOBER 2011knitting
Yarns

OCTOBER 19: SHIRLEY ANNE SCOTT

Shirley Scott (Shirl the Purl), author of *Canada Knits — Craft and Comfort in a Northern Land* descends from a long line of knitters. All of her ancestors came from parts of Ireland and Scotland, and hand knitting was in their blood. She considers herself a “heritage knitter” and particularly enjoys recreating the patterns of the past. She will give us a glimpse into the history of Canadian knitting and will talk about today’s living and knitting in Newfoundland.

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

Our presenter will be **Jacqueline Schiller**, a knitter and textile artist. Jacqueline is a graduate of Ontario College of Art and Design, where she majored in drawing and painting. Her work has been shown in both solo and group exhibitions in Canada and abroad. In 2007, she

spent a year studying in Florence, Italy and is heavily influenced by the traditional processes and incorporates them into contemporary practice. Though only 24, she has been knitting for 20 years. She currently lives and works in Toronto.

Another noteworthy item about the November meeting: **Painted Fleece** will have a vendor’s table at the meeting, so don’t forget to bring cash if you want to take home some unique yarn.

Mark your calendar for the 6th Annual **DKC Bus Trip** on November 5. This fun fall tour includes stops at Linda’s Craftique in Port Credit, Dutch Mill Country Market in Waterdown for our lunch, and The Needle Emporium in Ancaster. Book now to ensure your seat.

Details in enclosed flyer, or online at www.downtownknitcollective.ca

**Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Location

Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave.
NW corner of St. George St. and Sussex Ave.
on the University of Toronto campus.

TTC Access

Five-minute walk south from St. George subway station.
Parking available at several nearby locations.

Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m.**Doors Open:** 6:45 p.m.**Admission**

\$6.00 for guests and Newsletter Only Subscribers
Free to Full Members (please show card at door)

All Downtown Knit Collective meetings, functions and events are governed by the Rules of Conduct as determined by the Executive.
To read a copy of the Rules, please visit
www.downtownknitcollective.ca/dkc_conduct.html

The first meeting of the new season drew a crowd of about 130 members, at least 20 of whom identified themselves as first-timers. President Carole commanded everyone to “step away from the yarn” and begin the meeting.

Announcements

Carole was apparently the only DKC member who succeeded at her stash reduction challenge (to reduce stash by 10% over the summer). In fact, at least one audience member admitted to increasing hers by 20%. Carole managed to finish five projects and bought just one new skein—though granted, it *was* 2500 metres.

CreativFestival is coming up fast, and two DKC members will be teaching workshops this year: Fiona and Flo.

For new members just learning the ropes, Carole introduced **Dr. Knit**, a fixture at every meeting. If you’ve got a knitting problem, she is available half an hour before every meeting to help you out. There is even a comfy chair to sit in.

The annual **Fall Bus Trip** is coming up on November 5. The itinerary includes Linda’s Craftique in Port Credit for the morning stop, and the ever-popular Needle Emporium in Ancaster in the afternoon. Sign-up details are coming soon.

Our new VP Promotions, Edna Zuber, will be leading a **DKC focus group** on October 15 from 2-4 at Creative Yarns, 269 Ellesmere Road. Planned discussion topics include what our membership means to us all, and the directions the guild can take to attract more members. There was a great response at the September meeting, but there are still spaces for more participants. Please contact Edna (edna@zuber.net) if you’re interested in joining the conversation.

Carole brought up the prospect of a “**Crafter’s Corner**” for each meeting... a table members would be able to rent for a nominal fee to sell their handmade items. This idea was met with great enthusiasm.

Raffle

Assorted yarns and patterns from Patons was won by our very own Raffle Lady, Dawn Juruc. Three sets of Katia Ronda

yarn and patterns (Diamond Yarns) were won by Flo Sherbanowski, Susan Butler and Rosemary McGuire-Herman. \$306 was raised for Knitting for a Cure.

Yarn Reps

Diamond Yarns

Our first rep was Kathryn Petrie from Diamond Yarns. She said this fall’s collection is all about sparkly, glittery, ruffy and fluffy. First off she introduced Grace, a new hand-beaded yarn from Louisa Harding. She then showed Angel by Debbie Bliss, a kid mohair/silk blend which is practically weightless. There is also a new version called Party Angel, basically Angel with sparkles. She then showed a couple of new chunky yarns, also from Debbie Bliss—Riva (self-striping) and Glen (self-shading).

Kathryn then moved on to the Diamond Luxury collection, including Stella Bella (baby alpaca with sparkle), Starry Nights (a ribbon yarn that’s both sparkly *and* fluffy, fulfilling two categories), Katia Ronda (a novelty yarn with an almost lettuce-like appearance) Triana Luxe (a net-like yarn with many fancy scarf possibilities) and Manos Artesanas (a giant chunky handmade artisan yarn).

Kathryn was then very excited to unveil a new and “unbelievably vast” collection of tools they now distribute under the name Knitter’s Pride, including needles, hooks, sock blockers, shawl pins and a new line of interchangeable needles called Symfonie. The options for Symfonie include coloured wood, nickel plated brass, birch and square (which is easier on fingers and gets a more uniform gauge). They were pleased to discover that the set is also compatible with Knit Picks and Knit Pro needles and cables, as they are made by the same manufacturer.

Spinrite Yarns

We were also joined by Svetlana and Crystal of Spinrite, makers of Bernat and Patons, among other familiar brands. Michael’s craft store is currently their prime distributor, and the Patons advantage is definitely price. Svetlana showed a lovely three-ball self-striping shawl that can be made for about \$20.

The new two-toned lash yarn Moxie gives

fur-like results, coming in varieties like Lynx, Mink, Fox, Sable and Chinchilla (no actual wild creatures were harmed to create this yarn). Wild Child is a crazy, tufty, chenille-y yarn primarily made of wool, with many quick-knit projects possible. Pirouette is for fans of ruffles, a netting yarn with a clever chenille edge for a finished look.

Patons Classica wool yarn is now available in bulky roving style, perfect for felting projects as it is more loosely spun. The classic Canadiana has been re-invented for a new generation, and comes in many new varieties including variegated. A number of new colours have been added to Grace mercerized cotton yarn.

Socks! Crystal noted that self-striping yarn has given new life to the world of sock yarn. The new Patons “Stretch Socks” yarn contains a little elastic strand that gives it a slight stretch, and it’s very forgiving. Ragg yarn has very distinct striping, while FX results in more gradual shading. For those who prefer to play with their socks, there’s a new pattern book (*Monkey Around*) devoted to this purled primate.

Rounding out the new yarn offerings from Patons are two new luxurious blends, Silk Bamboo and Angora Bamboo. Both have enough sheen and drape to make any fibre enthusiast drool.

Huge thanks to our yarn reps for being so generous with their time (and yarn!)



STITCH OF THE MONTH by Diane Martin

Canterbury Bells

Multiple of 5 sts.

NOTE: Stitches should only be counted after the 1st, 2nd and 10th rows.

Abbreviations

KB_ and PB_ : knit or purl into the back of the next _ stitch(es)
(makes a twisted stitch)

yf: yarn front (hold yarn to front of work)

yb: yarn back (hold yarn to back of work)

sl: slip

tbl: through back loop

Row 1: (right side) P2, KB1, *p4, KB1; rep from * to last 2 sts, p2.

Row 2: K2, PB1, *k4, PB1; rep from * to last 2 sts, k2.

Row 3: P2, KB1, *p2, turn, cast on 8 sts cable method, turn, p2, KB1; rep from * to last 2sts, p2.

Row 4: K2, PB1, *k2, p8, k2, PB1; rep from * to last 2 sts, k2.

Row 5: P2, KB1, *p2, k8, p2, KB1; rep from * to last 2 sts, p2.

Row 6: As Row 4

Row 7: P2, KB1, *p2, yb, sl 1, k1, pssso, k4, k2tog, p2, KB1; rep



from * to last 2 sts, p2.

Row 8: K2, PB1, *k2, p2tog, p2, p2togtbl, k2, PB1; rep from * to last 2 sts, k2.

Row 9: P2, KB1, *p2, yb, sl 1, k1, pssso, k2tog, p2, KB1; rep from * to last 2 sts, p2.

Row 10: K2, PB1, *k1, sl 1, k1, pssso, k2tog, PB1; rep from * to last 2 sts, k2.

Rep these 10 rows.

From *The Harmony Guide to Knitting Techniques & Stitches*, pg 144
(orange cover)

STITCH N' PITCH 2011





I was asked for the pattern for the scarf that Joan showed (spun during the Relay for Life, and knit up over the summer). The instructions are very generic, and I do things differently every time, but I think the text gives a general outline on how the shaping is achieved.

Scarf/Shawl

Copyright Diane Martin, 2006. Generic Pattern for a Scarf that can become a Shawl if you forget to stop.

Scarf shape is based on two triangles (hereafter referred to as “wings”) separated by a back panel. The back panel looks like a rectangle with a triangle on top. The wings have “shoulder seams”. The net result is a garment that sits where it’s put.

The scarf starts at the neck edge, and works out and down. **Yarns used so far:**
 100% silk, Pingouin Shanghai, DK weight, 50 g/125m/ball
 Wool/Soy blend, Paton’s SWS, heavy aran weight, 80 g/100 m/ball
 King Cole Luxury Mohair, 50g/110m/ball

Needles used: US 11 with the silk; US 13 with the soy/wool; 8.0 mm with the mohair

Amounts of yarn used: about 2.5 balls/3 balls of the double knitting weight silk, 4 balls of the soy/wool more-than-aran weight yarn—but it is a variegated yarn, and there was lots of waste because of the long colour runs. 2 balls of the mohair—ran out of yarn 2 rows short.

Directions will be sketchy. Stitch count is unknown—you quite literally knit until the scarf is long enough. For me, that’s when the back panel reaches about 12 inches/30 cm in length.

Set up the neck edge

Cast on—provisional cast on with a waste

yarn—2 stitches, and knit 32 rows of garter stitch — or 16 bumps worth of garter stitch rows.

Knit 2, pick up and knit 1 stitch in each of the bumps, carefully remove the waste yarn, and knit 2 (should be 20 sts.)

Row 1: K2, yarn over, K2 (front of left wing), yo, K1, yo (shoulder seam), K2, yo (back of left wing), k1, yo (separator of left wing and back panel), k4, yo, k1 (back panel and separator from right wing), yo, k2 (back of right wing), yo, k1, yo (shoulder seam), k2, yo, (front of right wing, k2.

Row 2: Knit across row.

Row 3: K2, yo, k4, yo, K1, yo, k4, yo, K1, yo, k6, yo, k1, yo, k4, yo, k1, yo, k4, yo, k2.

Row 4: Repeat Row 2.

Continue in this way until the shoulder seam length is the same length as your shoulder (in my case this between 5 and 6 inches), and discontinue the shoulder seam increases. Continue increasing at the beginning and end of each wing, and on each side of the back panel until the back panel is the width of your back between your shoulder blades (in my case, this is between 7 and 8 inches).

Once the back panel is at the correct width for you, discontinue the increases on each side of the back panel. Continue, however, with the increases at each end of the wings. Once the length of the scarf has reached 12 or 13 inches, as measured from the centre back neck edge to the bottom of the back panel, the scarf is probably long enough.

Cast off very loosely, or try the following method: Knit 2 and put them back on the left hand needle, *k2tog, and return the stitch to the left hand needle; repeat from * to the end of the row and fasten off. Weave the ends in.

The shawl part of the scarf shawl

Instead of casting off when the scarf is about 12 inches long, keep on knitting until you run out of yarn, or the back panel reaches the length of your favourite sweater or jacket or shawl—or the wings reach your wrist.

Because of the shoulder seams, the scarf/shawl will not slide off. Because of the back panel, you will not get the point that drags behind you on the ground when you get the side bits long enough to cover your wrists.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Decorator Fabric Sale

The Textile Museum of Canada presents “For the Love of Cloth” decorator fabric sale on October 14-15, an annual boutique-style sale of fabulous designer fabrics. See textilemuseum.ca for details.

CreativFestival 2011

October 21, 22 & 23

This massive fall event returns to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre for its 24th year. Yarns, fabrics, papers, beads, patterns, kits and must-have notions, tools and equipment. Details and tickets at csnf.com.

A Celebration of Quilts XI

presented by York Heritage Quilters Guild, November 11-13 at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. Enjoy the show of members’ quilts from traditional to contemporary fibre arts, fashion show, merchants’ mall. Tickets \$5 in advance or \$8 at the door. Visit yhqq.org for info.

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